



United States Department  
of Agriculture

National Agricultural  
Statistics Service

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# Washington Crop Weather

Released: November 19, 2007  
Week Ending: November 18, 2007  
CWP WA-CW4607

## Much Needed Rains Arrive in the Palouse

### Field Crops

Days suitable for fieldwork were 4.2. Much needed rain came to the Palouse last week and field work was essentially done for the year. Rainfall was still lagging for the crop year and additional rain would be welcomed. Most of Whitman County wheat was up, but conditions only appear to be fair, due to the dry fall. Christmas tree growers in Snohomish, Thurston, Grays Harbor and Pacific Counties reported brisk sales of trees. Large orders were being filled for California markets and the day after Thanksgiving sales. At this point, there appears to be no shortage of Christmas trees of any kind.

### Fruits and Vegetables

In the Yakima Valley, apple harvest wrapped up with the last picking of Pink Ladies. Chelan County reported their fruit harvest was complete. Skagit County reported most fall-seeded seed crops had been planted and doing well.

### Livestock and Shellfish

Range and pasture conditions were 13% very poor, 19% poor, 14% fair, 42% good and 12% excellent. Throughout the state, hay supplies were tight and cattle growers were upping the feed as winter settles in the Pacific Northwest. Pacific County reported oyster growers continued harvest operations in preparation for the holiday season. Strong prices have been a welcome change for producers.

### Days Suitable for Fieldwork

Week	Days
This Week	4.2
Last Week	6.1

### Moisture and Supply

Item	Percent			
	VS	SH	AD	S
Topsoil	5	7	55	33
Topsoil 5 Yr Avg	6	24	56	14
Subsoil	14	30	54	2
Subsoil 5 Yr Avg	9	34	55	3
Irrigation Water	6	10	82	2
Irrigation Water 5 Yr Avg	2	5	92	1
Hay & Roughage	26	22	50	2

VS=Very Short SH=Short AD=Adequate S=Surplus

### Crop Progress

Crop/Activity	Percent Completed			
	This Week	Last Week	2006	5 Yr. Avg.
Winter Wheat Emerged	93	91	98	96
Potatoes Harvested	99	98	100	99
Field Corn Harvested for Grain	90	85	98	88

### Crop Condition\*

Crop	% Acreage				
	VP	P	F	G	EX
Winter Wheat Dryland	0	2	52	45	1
Winter Wheat Irrigated	0	0	16	77	7

VP=Very Poor P=Poor F=Fair G=Good EX=Excellent

\*Crop conditions are a measurement of the growing conditions and are not indicative of the quality of the crop produced.

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# COUNTY COMMENTS

## Western

**Clallam/Jefferson:** Temperatures were normal for this time of year with no unusual situations to report.

**Grays Harbor:** Christmas tree growers continued harvest at a brisk pace in order to meet orders that required delivery into California markets the day after Thanksgiving. Dairy producers continued pumping lagoons and applying the manure to forage fields. Livestock producers reported that colder temperatures had resulted in increased hay sales. Home gardeners were pruning holly trees for holiday greens.

**Grays Harbor/Lewis/Pacific:** Christmas tree harvest was in full swing while all other crops were in the bin as another year winded down.

**Mason:** Two separate Pacific storms rolled through bringing 4.75 inches of precipitation. The first was accompanied by high wind, reaching 42mph on Monday. Temperatures were mild with cooler nights expected for next week although above freezing. Leaves were all down even on the fruit trees. Ponds were full and the residual streams were running but the ground did not appear saturated. Weather was normal for this time of year.

**Pacific:** Rainy Fall weather limited field work for most producers. Oyster growers continued harvest operations in preparation for the holiday season. Strong prices were a welcome change for producers. Christmas tree growers continued harvest operations, but were concerned with low tree prices. Cranberry growers continued post harvest cleanup. Pasture conditions remained good, despite heavy rainfall and cooler temperatures.

**Pierce/S. King:** There were no unusual situations to report. There were no reports of crop damage due to a weather event.

**Skagit:** High temperatures averaged 50 degrees. There was 1.8 inches of precipitation recorded at the WSU North West Research and Extension Center in West Mount Vernon. Many potato farmers were stuck in the mud when it came to harvesting their potatoes. Area bulb and wheat farmers were finishing up planting their 2008 crop. Potato harvest was 90 percent complete.

**Skagit/San Juan/Island:** There were cool temperatures with overcast days. There were some scattered showers and breezy high winds over the weekend. There was frost on some mornings but temperatures stayed mild during the day due to cloud cover. Most fall seeded crops were planted and doing well.

**Snohomish/N. King:** Temperatures were typical for Fall with highs in the mid 50s and lows in the low 40s. No unusual situations to report.

**Snohomish/N. King (2<sup>nd</sup> Report):** The weather was mostly wet this week with rainfall of 2 to 3 inches in some areas. Pastures and fields were wet with standing water in places. Cooling temperatures slowed pasture growth. Christmas tree farms continued preparations for the holiday season. Trumpeter swans were appearing in the valley for their annual visit to glean the fields.

**Thurston:** Cold, wet weather limited almost all agricultural activity. Christmas tree growers were frantically working to fill orders for Thanksgiving weekend sales. Choose and Cut Christmas tree growers continued preparing for opening their farms the day after Thanksgiving. There appeared to be no shortage of trees this year of any species. Livestock producers reported increased hay sales due to the colder temperatures. Turfgrass growers reported weak sales due to adverse weather conditions and the slow-down in the housing market. Home gardeners continued sprucing up their landscapes in preparation for the holiday season.

**Whatcom:** There were severe wind storms earlier in the week that caused a power outage for over two days. Winds tore off some roofing and caused structural damage to a number of barns and out buildings.

## Central

**Benton:** Hay was in short supply. Many areas in Washington were out of hay for sale according to members of the Washington State Hay Growers Board.

**Chelan:** All fruit harvest was complete. There was very little activity to report.

**Grant:** Dry corn harvest continued. Potato harvest wrapped up. Fresh carrot harvest continued and should be completed within the next couple weeks. Recent rains helped the dryland winter wheat acreage.

**Klickitat:** It rained every day last week and there were unexpected snow showers over the weekend. The moisture had finally recharged soil, seasonal streams and ponds.

**Yakima:** Average temperatures varied from 11 degrees above normal to 5 degrees below normal, with 0.98 inch of precipitation. There was no crop damage due to weather conditions reported.

**Yakima (2<sup>nd</sup> Report):** Apple harvest wrapped up with the last pickings of Pink Lady apples. The Yakima Valley experienced a rainy weekend.

## Eastern

**Asotin/Garfield:** The area had little rain showers most of the week. On Saturday and Sunday a good rain storm moved through the area.

**Ferry:** Winter feeding had started on most operations.

**Pend Oreille/Spokane:** Snow and rain this weekend brought needed moisture. The colder weather required additional feed for animals that have been supplemental grazing some of the pasture.

**Stevens:** Fall tillage continued on a few farms. Moisture was received several times during the past week.

**Walla Walla:** Temperatures were warm most of the week and very wet. Saturday brought heavy rains most of the day. Crops continued to look good.

**Whitman:** More rain came to the area and field work was all but wrapped up for the year. Rainfall was still behind for the crop year and additional rains would be welcomed before winter wheat goes into dormancy for the year. Most of the crop was up but conditions were just fair. It has been a very dry year and additional rainfall was needed.

# Weekly Weather Statistics

November 19, 2007

STATION	AIR TEMPERATURE				GROWING DEGREE DAYS				LAST WEEK PRECIP			SEASON CUM PRECIP			
	LO	HI	AVG	DFN	TOT	DFN	TOT	DFN	TOTAL INCHES	DFN	DAYS	TOTAL INCHES	DFN	PCT NORMAL	DAYS
<b>WEST</b>															
Bellingham Intl	32	56	45	+2	1	-5	0	+0	0.57	-0.62	5	6.48	-1.79	78	42
Everett	34	52	46	+3	0	-7	0	+0	1.98	+0.81	6	7.89	-0.16	98	40
Hoquiam	38	56	49	+3	9	+2	0	+0	2.61	+0.17	6	11.47	-3.85	75	42
Kelso	30	61	49	+5	12	+5	0	+0	1.56	-0.02	5	7.94	-1.99	80	26
Olympia	26	54	45	+4	1	-6	0	+0	2.43	+0.49	6	10.27	-0.91	92	39
Seattle-Tacoma	36	54	47	+2	1	-6	0	+0	2.26	+0.87	4	9.23	+0.80	109	40
Shelton	29	53	45	+0	0	-7	0	+0	4.67	+2.21	6	13.70	-0.30	98	37
Tacoma WA AP	27	55	46	+3	1	-6	0	+0	1.62	+0.18	6	7.78	-0.86	90	32
Vancouver WA	31	63	50	+6	16	+9	0	+0	2.26	+0.85	4	7.45	-1.02	88	30
<b>CENTRAL</b>															
Ellensburg	19	58	40	+4	0	-2	0	+0	0.51	+0.23	4	1.50	-0.20	88	16
Omak AP	16	54	38	+5	0	+0	0	+0	0.17	-0.20	1	1.76	-0.80	69	13
Stampede Pass	26	44	34	+6	0	+0	0	+0	5.30	+2.38	6	18.24	+1.42	108	47
Wenatchee	27	53	40	+3	0	-5	0	+0	0.19	-0.09	1	0.70	-0.78	47	10
Yakima AP	18	60	41	+3	0	-7	0	+0	0.61	+0.37	3	1.39	-0.03	98	13
<b>NORTHEAST</b>															
Colville	20	52	39	+5	0	+0	0	+0	0.56	-0.08	4	2.78	-1.07	72	27
Deer Park	15	52	38	+4	0	+0	0	+0	0.99	+0.37	5	3.71	+0.31	109	25
Republic	18	51	39	+8	0	+0	0	+0	0.45	+0.07	3	2.59	-0.08	97	21
Spokane AP	24	52	41	+6	0	+0	0	+0	0.72	+0.21	6	2.67	-0.24	92	25
<b>EAST CENTRAL</b>															
Ephrata	20	59	40	+3	0	-2	0	+0	0.23	-0.01	4	1.14	-0.21	84	15
Moses Lake	18	61	40	+3	0	-2	0	+0	0.29	+0.05	3	1.24	-0.11	92	14
Quincy	20	59	40	+4	0	-7	0	+0	0.29	+0.01	3	1.56	+0.02	101	16
Ritzville	24	56	41	+5	0	-7	0	+0	0.63	+0.25	5	1.81	-0.43	81	17
<b>SOUTHEAST</b>															
Hanford	23	65	44	+2	5	-2	0	+0	0.38	+0.16	2	0.97	-0.30	76	12
Pasco	19	69	46	+4	8	+1	0	+0	0.43	+0.17	4	1.40	-0.08	95	14
Pullman	28	51	41	+5	0	-4	0	+0	1.91	+1.28	6	4.26	+0.34	109	20
Walla Walla Rgn	28	63	47	+5	11	+4	0	+0	1.06	+0.43	5	3.11	-0.95	77	19
Whitman Mission	18	64	44	+4	7	+0	0	+0	0.75	+0.33	5	2.29	-0.45	84	20
<b>WESTERN IDAHO PANHANDLE</b>															
Lewiston ID	30	57	48	+7	4	+1	0	+0	0.70	+0.42	4	2.00	-0.35	85	20

Summary based on NWS data.

Season Cumulative Precip Starts: Friday September 1, 2007

DFN = Departure From Normal (Using 1961-90 Normals Period).

NA = Data Unavailable

Precipitation (rain or melted snow/ice) in inches.

Precipitation Days = Days with precip of 0.01 inch or more.

Air Temperatures in Degrees Fahrenheit.

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National weather summary: <http://usda.mannlib.cornell.edu/reports/waobr/weather/2007/summary/weth1606.pdf>

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